

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /108 W

----- 049456

R 151537Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1443

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH REACTION TO SOLZHENITSYN EXPULSION

SUMMARY: SOLZHENITSYN EXPULSION BLANKETING MEDIA HERE. WITH NOBEL CONNECTIONS, SWEDES FEEL PARTICULARLY CLOSE TO SOLZHENITSYN, AND THEY ARE HOPING HE WILL NOW COME TO STOCKHOLM TO COLLECT DIPLOMA. ALL PARTIES DENOUNCE SOVIETS, WITH LIBERALS TAKING LEAD, BUT COMMUNIST PARTY IS SPLIT ON ISSUE. SOVIET EMBASSY KEEPING HEAD DOWN. SO FAR NO SIGNIFICANT DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE. END SUMMARY.

1. ARREST AND EXPULSION OF SOLZHENITSYN HAS DOMINATED SWEDISH PRESS, RADIO, AND TV. SINCE HE WAS AWARDED 1971 NOBEL PRIZE, WHICH SWEDES FEEL HELPED FOCUS WORLD-WIDE INTEREST, SOLZHENITSYN HAS BEEN FAMILIAR AND POPULAR NAME IN SWEDEN. HIS ROYALTIES EARNED HERE EXCEED SKR 1.5 MILLION (\$320,000).

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2. ALL FIVE SWEDISH RIKSDAG PARTIES DENOUNCED EXPULSION.

LEFT COMMUNIST PARTY (VPK) LEADER HERMANSSON AND HIS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CLEARLY, IF SOMEWHAT GUARDEDLY, CONDEMNED MOVE ON GROUNDS OF FREE SPEECH. HOWEVER, THE IMPORTANT NORBOTTEN WING OF VPK DID NOT GO ALONG WITH PARTY LEADERSHIP. ITS SPOKESMAN, NORRSKENSFLAMMAN CHIEF EDITOR ALF LOVENBORG, DECLARED: "A CAPITALIST FRONT WITH SOLZHENITSYN AS ITS INSTRUMENT HAS BEEN PREPARING FOR A NEW NIGHT OF TERROR FOR PEOPLE OF THE WORLD...IT IS TO DEMOLISH THIS FRONT, TO PREVENT FASCIST DEVELOPMENTS AND A THIRD WORLD WAR THAT SOLZHENITSYN HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO HIS FRIENDS IN WEST GERMANY". THUS STALINIST-REVISIONIST SPLIT IN SWEDEN'S COMMUNIST PARTY HAS SURFACED AGAIN AND COULD BE DAMAGING FOR VPK, WHICH HAS BEEN PICKING UP SUPPORT FROM A GOODLY NUMBER OF DISAFFECTED SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.

3. LIBERAL LEADER GUNNAR HELEN, BADLY IN NEED OF FAVORABLE PUBLICITY, HAS BEEN LEADING THE PACK IN DENOUNCING SOVIETS. ON WEDNESDAY EVENING HE WAS TURNED AWAY FROM SOVIET EMBASSY, WHICH SUMMARILY REFUSED TO ACCEPT PETITION HE HAD IN HAND. LATER HELEN MAILED IT IN. HE IS CURRENTLY PROMOTING A COUNTRYWIDE PETITION-SIGNING CAMPAIGN SIMILAR TO THE ONE CARRIED OUT TO PROTEST SO-CALLED CHRISTMAS BOMBING IN VIETNAM. PETITION WOULD BE IN IMPLEMENTATION *F ZACHAROV APPEAL ISSUED THIS WEEK IN MOSCOW.

4. SO FAR THERE BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT DEMONSTRATIONS OR PROTEST RALLIES AT SOVIET EMBASSY OR ELSEWHERE BUT SOME SORT OF STREET ACTIVITY MAY DEVELOP THIS WEEKEND. (COMMENT: SWEDEN'S MOST EXPERIENCED DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZERS ARE NOT THE TYPE TO MOUNT SOMETHING AGAINST USSR.)

5. THERE IS MUCH TALK ABOUT SOLZHENITSYN COMING TO STOCKHOLM, PERHAPS TO SETTLE IN SWEDEN BUT AT LEAST TO COLLECT HIS NOBEL PRIZE ARTIFACTS AND DELIVER HIS NOBEL LECTURE. SECRETARY GENERAL GIEROW OF ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY HAS DECLARED ACADEMY READY TO DELIVER NOBEL DIPLOMA AND MEDAL HERE. PRIZE MONEY HAS LONG SINCE BEEN DISPATCHED. PRIMIN PALME HAS MADE SOLZHENITSYN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WELCOME TO SWEDEN.

6. ONE OF MORE INTERESTING ASPECTS IS EASE WITH WHICH STOCKHOLM JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TELEPHONE DISSIDENTS IN MOSCOW. ZAKHAROV HAS BEEN INTERVIEWED TWICE BY PHONE BY SWEDISH TV, AND MRS. SOLZHENITSYN HAS ALSO TALKED TO REPORTERS HERE.

7. SO FAR SOVIET EMBASSY HAS BEEN KEEPING ITS HEAD
DOWN UNDER MASSIVE VERBAL BOMBARDMENT. BEFORE SOLZHENITSYN
ARREST, SOVEMBASSY CIRCULATED THE CUTTING IZVESTIA ATTACK
ON LIBERAL LEADER HELEN AND HIS "TINY SO-CALLED LIBERAL
PARTY." BUT SINCE THE ANTI-SOVIET CANNONADE BEGAN,
ITS PROPAGANDISTS HERE HAVE TAKEN TO THE SHELTERS.
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